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FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 22, 1877.

SENATE.

During the morning hour Mr. Merrimon spoke in opposition to sending committees of the Senate away from the city to take testimony. Recently one State was without representation, and twelve other States with only one-half representation. Senators being away on investigating committees. He believed all the testimony could be taken by a commissioner appointed for the purpose, and introduced a bill for taking testimony and collecting information to be used by Congress. He also submitted a resolution declaring that "it is not within the lawful authority of the Senate to charge committees of the Senate with duties to be performed away from the capital while the Senate is in session," both of which were referred.

Mr. Cockrell introduced a bill granting a pension to the widow of the late Major General Francis P. Blair, Jr. Referred.

Mr. Cameron, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to provide for the distribution of awards made under the convention between the United States and Mexico under the convention of July 4th, 1864. Referred.

Mr. Begy introduced a bill organizing the Territory of Oklamo and for the better protection of the Indians therein. Referred.

Mr. Wright called up the House bill to amend section 1 of the act of May 12, 1864, for a grant of land to the State of Iowa to aid in the construction of a railroad in said State, which was amended and passed.

Mr. Blaine, recently elected to fill the unexpired term caused by the resignation of Mr. Morrill, was sworn in to the desk of the President *pro tem.* by his colleague, Mr. Hamlin, and the oath was administered to him.

The Chair laid before the Senate a telegram from the Chicago Board of Trade, approving the bill reported Thursday in regard to counting the electoral vote. Laid on the table.

Consideration was resumed of the bill in regard to counting the electoral vote, and Mr. Morton took the floor. He said the bill was the product of the Mississippi plan. The shadow of intimidation had entered the Senate chamber. He believed Rutherford B. Hayes had been elected President of the United States under the forms of law and according to law, and should he be counted in as eighteen other Presidents had been and inaugurated, there would be no revolution. There have been many loose opinions expressed because of impressions formed without an examination of this question. I have done so myself. I have had a fault of saying what I think at the time, but endeavor to atone for it by readily correcting it when I find I was mistaken. I am no admirer of the political reticence of political cowards, who keep silent and look wise until they think they can get out of the woods, and then give a prolonged hoot. I had supposed that all agreed in the absence of legislation that the President of the Senate must count the vote. The President of the Senate did count the vote for seventy-two years. Tellers were mere facilities for making calculations and keeping account. They counted what the President of the Senate hands them down to count, and handing them down the certificates to count was a declaration of the vote. It continued from 1789 to 1862. The resolution appointing tellers provided that they were to make a list of the votes as they were declared. The counting of the votes was a ceremony to which the two Houses were witnesses. The Constitution provides that the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the two Houses, open all the certificates, and the vote then be counted, and if no one (no candidate) has a majority of all the electors appointed the House shall immediately proceed to elect. The process contemplated was a very simple one—simply to open the certificates and count the votes—no power delegated no time or place to try questions of eligibility either of candidates or of electors. Whether the electors were eligible was a matter left to the States under the injunctions of the Constitution. The handing down of a certificate by the President of the Senate was a declaration of the vote contained therein.

Very few Republicans respect this bill. It will be taken by the Republicans, if taken at all, as a dose of castor oil. Senator Edmunds burned his ships behind the bill when he denied the power of the President of the Senate to count the votes in the absence of legislation. He thus re-med to make it a necessity to accept this bill. It has been announced by a member of Congress that 100,000 men were to be here on the 14th of February, 10,000 to come from Kentucky alone. I hope our Kentucky Senators will make arrangements to entertain them handsomely. We hear notes of preparation everywhere. Senators are afraid of violence, of some desperate revolutionary act. We are told we dare not count this vote as it was done for the first seventy-two years of our existence. I feel that I am in the presence of a political situation I cannot describe. The dangers to which we are subject do not spring from violence, but *from weakness on our own part.* Geologists tell us there was a period in the earth's crust where there were skulless vertebrates. Now we have got to the period where there are vertebrates also skulls. The power to count the vote resides in the President of the Senate or in the two Houses. If it resides in the two Houses it cannot be delegated to a committee or to a court. The mere matter of counting votes is clerical, and may be performed by tellers. If any question arises that requires judgment or discretion, it cannot be delegated to a commission. The decisions of the Conference Committee is binding only upon being ratified by both Houses; but the decisions of this commission are binding unless reversed by the action of both House. It is in every respect a court invested with high judicial powers, to decide questions of law as well as fact, with a right of appeal, not to another court, but to the two Houses of Congress. The power to count the electoral vote is either a political or a judicial power. If it is a political power, it must be decided by the political department of the Government, and cannot be delegated to a court. If it is a judicial power, it must be exercised by a court, and not by the political department of the Government, and an appeal must be taken to another court and not to the two Houses of Congress. Four judges of the Supreme Court are selected by circuits, and the circuits are selected because of the political antecedents of the judges. The Senator from Vermont does not do himself justice when he represents that these judges have been selected because of their geographical distribution, and the bill, in selecting them by circuits instead of by name, sets up a harmless title sham that deceives nobody.

There is no power to go behind the returns, if the election of the elector is conducted by the proper returning or canvassing officers of the State. The State courts cannot do it, nor can Congress nor the United States courts. The electors are to be appointed in such manner as the Legislatures of the States prescribe, and when the appointment has been certified in the manner prescribed by the Legislatures of the States, that is final and binding on all parties, and this without regard to the question whether the votes are to be counted by the President of the Senate or by the two Houses of Congress. For this commission to go behind the decision of the returning officers of the States would be utterly subversive of State rights. It would draw to Congress the power that was intended to be left to the States. It would transfer to Congress the right to decide who have been elected by the States, instead of leaving that to the States themselves. As well might Congress assume to determine who have been elected Governor and other State officers.

The bill is a compromise in which the Republican party had yielded a vital point, and will take a place alongside with the compromises of 1820 and 1850. In the compromise of 1820 all the territory south of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes was yielded to slavery, and it was repealed when slavery needed the territory north of that line. By the compromise of 1850 the South received immediate benefit in the passage of the Fugitive Slave law, which gave it prestige and power which made it aspire to the conquest of the whole country. Compromise measures generally succeed for a time, and result disastrously. The vital part of this bill, and the most objectionable, is that which confers the jurisdiction of this commission. Powers are invested with all the powers which belong to both Houses or to each House acting separately. They are instructed to find who have been duly appointed or elected electors, not who have been properly certified by the State authorities as having been elected, but who have in point of fact been elected, and even if not appointed expressly to go behind the returns from the State. They are authorized to receive and consider petitions—unsworn petitions, documents and other communications—to sift all papers, and to act upon these petitions, reports and any kind of papers that both Houses of Congress have, and the two Houses of Congress have, as we know, power to act upon the information of petitions and reports or any kind of evidence that satisfies the minds of its members. If these petitions, depositions and reports are not to be made the basis of judgment, the reference is useless. Petitions and reports are authorized by the Commission and laws, and Congress, as we know, may act upon them, and this commission is clothed with the same authority. We stand in the presence of a case that is made up. The bill purports to be for one case, and differs from a proposition of law that is to be a continuing law, and not made in the presence of a particular case. It is claimed that the commission is left free to decide whether they can go behind the finding of the State authorities or not. Not so. It expressly requires the commission to go behind them, by requiring them to find out who, in fact, was elected.

Could any lawyer of any party have been found, six months ago, who would have said that either House could go behind the returns from the States, and inquire who got the most votes? And perhaps you can hardly find a Democratic lawyer who will now deny that proposition. Such are the mutations of public opinion. In the bill of last year there was no authority to go behind returns or to consider other papers than certificates from the States. In the bill of 1800 it was expressly provided that they should not go behind the returns to count the votes for electors.

If we concede, for the sake of argument, that the two Houses have the right to count the votes, there is still a question lying behind that and independent of it, and that is as to what papers the President of the Senate is required to open in the presence of the two Houses and hand to the tellers. The electors in the several States are to seal up their votes and the lists made up by the Governor, and inclose them to the President of the Senate, indorsing the names of the electors upon the outside of the envelope. He is thus notified who the electors or pretended electors are, who have voted, whose votes are contained in the envelope. It is a certificate from the electors, and none other that he is required to open in the presence of the two Houses. He is not, in fact required to receive the certificate of anybody but the true electors of a State. He is, therefore, required, in the discharge of the duty of his office, to determine and present the true certificates from the electors of a State. He is bound as an officer of the Government of the United States to take notice of those who have been declared elected by the proper authorities of a State, and when a certificate comes into his hands, it is his business at once to investigate and determine for himself whether it comes from the elector or a State. He must decide that question upon his peril, and present the certificate to the two Houses of Congress. Rutherford B. Hayes ought to be inaugurated and must be inaugurated, unless a bill should be passed to count him out in defiance of the well known principles of law.

Mr. Morton, replying to the position taken by Mr. Edmunds in reference to the count of the electoral vote, said: The position of the Senator is that neither the President of the Senate is vested with this power, nor are the two Houses of Congress; that neither can exercise it in the absence of a law passed for that purpose; and this law is prescribed in the Constitution, which is, that for eighty-four years Presidents were counted in and inaugurated without any authority in point of law. The President of the Senate had no power to do it, because there was no law authorizing him to do it. The two Houses had no power to do it, because there was no law authorizing them to do it. It was a part of the Constitution which had not been carried into operation by legislation. Now, sir, is it true that for eighty-four years Presidents were counted in and inaugurated without authority of law? That would be a very great discovery, if it were true. It would show that the men who made the Constitution did not understand it. In the absence of legislation the President of the Senate must count the votes to grant the Government coming to a halt, and he has counted the votes for eighty-four years, at least for seventy-two years, from 1789 and until the time of the adoption of the twenty-second joint rule. I do not intend now to go into an argument as to the right of the President of the Senate to count this vote against the power of Congress. I am simply stating that I have heretofore understood to be the general doctrine—that in the absence of legislation the President of the Senate must count this vote; that if now we fail to agree upon a bill, we should simply leave this question where it has been left for eighty-four years, and that the President of the Senate, in counting this vote, would be guilty of no greater usurpation than he has been guilty of for three-quarters of a century. This bill is a contrivance—to use the very mildest words, a contrivance—a political trap thing. The Representatives, five Senators, four judges first, and they to choose a fifth, and thus this tribunal is to be created that is to make a President of the United States. There are no analogies for it in our Constitution, or in our laws, or in our history. We have had no tribunals made up this way.

I wish briefly to call the attention of members of the Senate to this bill. I speak of the jurisdictional part—of that part conferring jurisdiction upon this commission, and it is the vital part of the bill. We need not discuss ourselves for a moment about this business. We know that both parties are looking intently to that question, and at that particular part. We may affect to be oblivious of it here, but we understand that the decision of this Presidential question depends absolutely upon that question, for if the principle shall stand that the action of the State authorities is final, then those who are appointed to count the votes and to say by State who are elected, Rutherford B. Hayes is elected and Mr. Tilden cannot be counted in, simply by overturning that principle. It is all in that, and the able lawyers of the Democratic party on this floor and everywhere understand that just as well as we do. The duty is short and simple. The President of the Senate shall open the certificates in the presence of the two Houses, and the vote shall then be counted. There is but one thing to do, and that is to count the votes. There is no time, there is no place to try the eligibility of electors. Suppose it should be said, if you please, that the President himself, the candidate, is not a citizen of the United States; that he is not eligible to be elected, and that a charge should be made when the votes are counted. The candidate takes issue; he says he is a citizen, was born in this country, or he says he was thirty-five years old. That may be denied, and an issue of fact arises. Can you try that issue then? Will you count him out because you say he is not thirty-five years old, when he says he is? You cannot try that question of fact; then will you count him out because it is said he was not born in the United States? He says he was; that issue is made, and how were present and can prove it. If that issue is made, you can't possibly try it at that time, and so with regard to electors. If they suggest that an elector was not eligible, that he was a postmaster, if you please, he may deny the fact; he may insist on the fact that he had resigned before that time, and his resignation had been accepted. Is there any time or place then to try the issue of fact whether he was postmaster or not, whether he was qualified or not to become an elector? No, Mr. President. Whoever may count the votes, there is no time or place when you count the votes to try that question. The two Houses are to come together; the President of the Senate is to open all the certificates; that does not mean every kind of certificate that may be placed in his possession; it does not mean any paper that may purport to be a certificate; but he is to open all the certificates from electors from the several States, and the votes shall then be counted. The votes in those certificates, be they good, bad or indifferent, be they for an alien or be they for a citizen of the United States, at that time and that place there is but one thing to do, and that is to count the votes. The President of the Senate has custody, and that is to open the certificates that come from the electors of the States. He is not bound to open the certificates from pretended authority, from outsiders, from persons unknown officially.

He [Morton] was not well enough today to argue this question as fully as he would like to. The Democratic Senators would not support this bill if it did not give them a chance to count Mr. Tilden in by going behind the returns. At 2:10 Mr. Morton said he was not able to proceed further to-day, and therefore suspended his remarks.

Mr. Frelinghuysen, a member of the special committee, then took the floor and spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Frelinghuysen said having been appointed a member of the special committee which framed the bill in regard to counting the electoral vote, and having, to the best of his ability, discharged his duty, he felt he could not remain silent while the reflecting and patriotic people of the country were interested in this measure to the extent that the dignity of this Government should be maintained, that no bad precedent should be set, that the peace of society should be preserved. There was a fear that the great National Legislature would do just what was right. The early commendators on the Constitution predicted that the greatest peril of the country would be in the succession to the Presidency. The administration of this Government, with its immense patronage, was to be handed over to the next President by one vote out of 369 in the electoral college. There were many persons who believed that some States where majorities were given for one party could cast majorities for the other party. There where many honest men in both political parties who believed that they were to be deprived of their rights, while office holders and office seekers only added to the excitement. If there ever was a time when the representatives of the American people should rise above party prejudice and party feeling, it was now; and with true courage and patriotism they should determine that they would avert this peril from the country. The duties of the faithful Senator were always responsible; but it seemed to him as if they now touched the highest point of responsibility. At all events, Senators must do their duty, whether it pleased their constituents or not. He had no doubt that the complication which now seemed to imperil the Government would be adjusted by Congress and accepted by the people, and the strength of this nation developed during the war would carry her forward into a new era, as all would have renewed confidence in our institutions. He believed this nation would enter upon a period of prosperity which had but few parallels.

He then referred to the bill, and said he believed the measure met with more opposition from Republicans than it did from Democrats. He would seek to take no unfair advantage of the opposing party, and he would be the last man to sacrifice the honor of that great party of liberty which had stood by the Government in its hour of peril. He then referred to the late twenty-second joint rule, and said it had been used for ten years when both Houses of Congress were Republican. Those who were opposed to this measure must see at once that under the rule which had prevailed for ten years, while both Houses were Republican, or even under the bill which passed the Senate last session, there would be a sorry prospect for having the votes of either Louisiana, Florida or South Carolina counted, with the rule of the last ten years against the Republicans as a precedent. The Democrats in Congress had acted with great fairness in joining with the Republicans in reporting this bill.

He then referred to the power claimed for the President of the Senate to count the electoral vote, and said: If the power to count that vote was vested in the President of the Senate, why had it been exercised by the two Houses of Congress during the last ten years? He denied that the power to determine and count the votes was vested in the President of the Senate, and said it would be a wonderful power to repose in one man. Suppose that during the late rebellion the President of the Senate had held that the Union could not be dissolved, and insisted upon counting all the votes which might come up from the Southern States; would the Senate and House have been compelled to sit quietly by and take no action? He argued that the Constitution imposed upon Congress the duty of deciding upon and counting the electoral votes, and Congress was bound to perform that duty. It would be great negligence now not to have legislation to that end.

He then spoke of the power and duties of the States in choosing Presidential electors, and in regard to the clause forbidding any Government officer from being an elector, and said that provision was a mandate to the State, and the State must enforce it. The State, no doubt, could restrain by proper judicial measures such officers from acting, but after he had acted even the State could not set his vote aside. The appointment of electors was confined to States, and Congress must accept the States' conclusion, just as the judgment of a court must stand. Congress could not be a grand returning board to investigate the votes of eight or ten millions of people. He denied that Congress had a right to go behind the electoral certificates, and said the provisions of the Constitution were inconsistent with the idea that Congress could do so.

He then spoke of the commission authorized by the bill reported by the select committee, and said it would have only such powers as were now conferred upon the two Houses of Congress. He had no idea that the fifteen members of the committee would decide that Congress had power to go behind the returns from a State. It might be said, if that doctrine was true, there was no necessity for sending Congressional committees to Louisiana to take testimony. He was opposed to sending such committees to that State, as the President should know the true condition of affairs, so he might know which government to recognize in case there were two. He believed the Republican party, which was the party best calculated to promote the interests of this country, would rule it for a generation to come.

He then referred to the Oregon case, and said it was not necessary in that case to go behind the returns. Cronin said there were two vacancies in the electoral college, while Cartwright and Odell said there was but one. The only question to settle in regard to Oregon was, whether two or one was a majority and quorum of these; and as two was the majority which legally filed the vacancy, their return must be counted. He considered

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1877.

THE American people have never yet had a President counted in, and we don't believe they are prepared to resort to this farcie method now.

A POWERFUL reaction is setting in against that proposed flip-penny compromise. The highest morality of the whole country is opposed to the dice-box.

MR. Congressman SEELYE said, before the late Senatorial election in Massachusetts, that he would accept the Senatorship if it was spontaneously offered to him. But then, you see, it was not spontaneously offered to him.

THE Democrats are turning that Oregon usurpation and fraud round in all possible ways to make them look like law and justice, but the ugly things still keep their old look, and all the paint and gilding that can be put upon them will not disguise their true character.

NOT a single Democratic has, paper as yet, said a word in condemnation of PELTON'S course in sending $8,000 of TILDEN'S money to Oregon, to influence the action of the electoral college of that State; but if General HAYES' nephew had been caught in a similar act, how they would have howled.

IN the apparently inevitable event of war between Russia and Turkey, we suspect it is the intention of the latter to deal slashing blows to the former from the side of Asia, while keeping her well employed in Europe. It would be curious should Asiatic Russia be destined to dismemberment before European Turkey.

IT is argued in behalf of the lottery plan before Congress for settling the Presidential question, that the judges chosen to sit as legal advisers on the commission will, for the credit of the bench, seek to divest themselves of all partisan feeling. Why, then, are these judges chosen solely with reference to their partisan preferences?

JERRY BLACK, epigrammatically and antithetically says: "Either side is willing to fight if it thinks the other wont. Neither side is willing to fight if it thinks the other will." JERRY is perfectly competent to speak for his own side, but not for the other. He hasn't the slightest comprehension, now, any more than he had in 1861, of what the other side is willing to do.

JUDGE CLIFFORD, who is chosen by the compromise plan to sit in judgment upon the disputed returns for the Presidency, is the identical CLIFFORD who made the decision sustaining the finding of a rebel court against General NEAL DOW, in which he held that every United States officer was personally liable for any rebel property he took or captured during the war. He is a pretty judge to choose for settling the Presidential question!

THE foreign commerce of New York city, last week, was: Merchandise imports, $5,206,030; produce exports, $6,497,868, and specie exports, $214,950. The total imports since January 1, this year, were $17,451,061, against $22,294,115 for the corresponding period last year, and $19,087,884 in 1875; the total exports of produce were $17,438,316, against $14,231,815 in 1876, and $13,132,930 in 1875, and the total exports of specie were $765,354, against $1,519,928 in 1876, and $7,628,658 in 1875.

THE Republican Senators who were on the joint committee have seen the country pass through one terrible crisis. They were patriotic and courageous in that trying hour. No one ever dared accuse them of a want of courage, or of any willingness to entertain dishonorable propositions from political opponents.—*Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.*

One of them, FRELINGHUYSEN, was a member of the Peace Congress in 1861. His moral and political cowardice moved him, then, to give up everything for peace, and seem to be acting in the same way now.

ONE of the leading literary journals of New York cites it as an extraordinary fact that more books on SHAKESPEARE are now written in Germany than in England. There is nothing strange about the matter. The Germans have found their way to a true interpretation of the great poet, while most of the English critics have missed it. It was SCHLEGEL who first taught the countrymen of SHAKESPEARE that all life makes to itself its own forms, and that SHAKESPEARE'S form had its living laws.

THE influence of kindness in turning men from their vicious tendencies and inducing them to accept honest work and lead honest lives, is suggested by the fact that the number of ex-convicts in the State of New York who were offered work by the agents of the State Prison Association during the past year was over one thousand, and that seventy-five per cent. have accepted the offer and done well. In seventy-seven towns and cities the association have regular transactions with business firms who employ ex-convicts upon their agents' recommendations.

THE New York *Herald* believes with MACAULAY that as civilization grows poetry declines. Perhaps it also believes with the same writer in the inevitable failure of our experiment of self-government. MACAULAY'S incapacity to comprehend the United States was not more marked than his inability to discern the truth that while symbols perish, poetry never dies. If the *Herald* thinks that the elements of poetry —courage, fidelity, imagination, honorable aims—are lost, or that the necessity of utterance has gone, or that the sufficiency of finite words for illimitable feeling is greater, it only proves the deadness of its own heart.

THE Baltimore *American* says:

There are weighty considerations, however, that will almost compel the adoption of the "compromise." Commercial interests are suffering, and a scheme that promises relief from the doubt and apprehension that has so filled the public mind will be joyfully accepted without any special inquiry into the legality of the proposed measure.

Which is equivalent to saying that the end justifies the means. To adopt a plan without regard to its legality, simply because it promises relief, is neither statesmanlike nor sensible. So grave a question as the Presidency cannot be safely settled unless it is settled in a strictly legal and constitutional way.

THE gentleman who has been elected to the United States Senate from Massachusetts is not the person who was for awhile Attorney General in the first administration of General GRANT. Not that man but another man. They are both named HOAR, but the ex-Attorney General is the brother of the Senator, and by no means the best of the two. The Senator is GEORGE F. HOAR, at present a member of the House, and the other is E. ROCKWOOD HOAR, who tried to get into the next House by running against BEN. BUTLER, and came out at the foot of the poll. The new Senator, it is due to say, has been a very earnest and faithful Republican in the House, and it is hoped he will not be spoiled by his transfer to the Senate.

THE widespread distribution of snow this winter promises to prove a great blessing to all kind of crops. In falling to the ground snow gathers and brings down more ammonia in the atmosphere than rain does, and by slowly melting works more of it into the ground among the roots of the grain, the grasses and the trees than does rain. The latter beats the ground hard and flows off, carrying the ammonia with it. Snow, on the contrary, begins melting next the ground and soaks the earth with moisture. So penetrating is the action of melting snow that a great deal of grass seed is sown on the snow, and as the snow melts and penetrates the previously loosened soil it carries the seed in with it, and furnishes it the proper moisture required to assure fermentation, which is the first visible step the seed takes toward reproducing itself. It may be safely assumed, therefore, that wherever there is any grain or grasses in the ground from Minnesota to Georgia and from Maine to Colorado, the heavy downpouring of snow which has occurred several times during December and the present month, has been most beneficial to them, and that if no extraordinary thing happens to injure the yield of wheat, winter-sown wheat will be good next harvest time, and the quality also of the best description. It is probable that there will also be a large yield of peaches, plums, apricots, cherries and other stoned fruits; since, while the snow has done good to the roots of these trees, the steadiness of the cold has kept down the sap, so that everything is favorable for an effective opening of the budding and blooming months. Peach trees and kindred fruit can endure very low temperatures, provided the cold comes on gradually and steadily and is accompanied by snow. It is the cold snaps of open winters that are so injurious to delicate fruit.

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

In the event of the passage of the bill reported by the joint committee, relative to counting the electoral votes, the five associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, who are to constitute the commission to decide as to which are the lawful votes in the States where two sets of returns have been made, will necessarily attract a large share of public attention. Under the provisions of the bill, the associate justices now assigned to the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth circuits, are to select, in such manner as the majority of them shall deem fit, another of the associate justices of said court, which five persons shall be the members of said commission, and the person longest in commission shall be the president. It will be observed that the Chief Justice, Mr. WAITE, is excluded, as the language is that the four associates are to select a fifth associate. The court is composed of nine members, and each member is assigned to a circuit, comprising a given number of States. MORRISON R. WAITE, of Ohio, appointed in 1874, is the Chief Justice. The associate justices are: NATHAN CLIFFORD, of Maine; NOAH H. SWAYNE, of Ohio; SAMUEL F. MILLER, of Iowa; DAVID DAVIS, of Illinois; STEPHEN J. FIELD, of California; WILLIAM STRONG, of Pennsylvania; JOSEPH P. BRADLEY, of New Jersey, and WARD HUNT, of New York. CLIFFORD was appointed in 1858, SWAYNE, MILLER and DAVIS in 1862, FIELD in 1863, STRONG and BRADLEY in 1870, and HUNT in 1873. CLIFFORD presides in the First circuit, STRONG, in the Third, MILLER in the Sixth, and FIELD in the Ninth—and these are the four associates designated (though not named) in the bill. A majority of these four must agree in selecting the fifth member. Justice CLIFFORD, of course, will preside, as he is the "oldest in commission." Thus it will be seen that three of the four virtually named in the bill have power to choose the fifth, and their choice must fall upon SWAYNE, DAVIS, BRADLEY or HUNT. As to the politics of the four already designated, CLIFFORD and FIELD are Democrats, while MILLER and STRONG are Republicans. Of the four remaining associates, all are Republicans except DAVIS, who, although an active member of the party for some years previous to his appointment, has since assumed an independent attitude, and at times has thrown off party allegiance altogether. No one can predict, with any degree of certainty, who the fifth man will be; but there are reasons for the surmise, now generally entertained, that the choice will fall upon DAVIS. The mere fact that he is no longer squarely identified with the Republican party, will secure for him the votes of the two Democrats, without whose votes it will be impossible to select any one of the three. Should the bill pass, the selection of the remaining justice will become a matter of the gravest importance; and as the entire court is just now the subject of much inquiry as well as interest, we append brief sketches of the several members:

The Chief Justice, Mr. WAITE, was born in Connecticut, in 1816; graduated at Yale, in 1837; studied law with his father, who was a judge of the Supreme Court of Errors, and removed to Ohio in 1838. From 1839 to 1874 he practiced law in Maumee and Toledo. He was a member of the Ohio Legislature, and in 1871 was counsel of the United States before the Geneva arbitration. In 1873 he was President of the Ohio Constitutional Convention, and in 1874 was appointed Chief Justice. As we have already stated, he is debarred from acting on the commission, under the terms of the bill. He is now fifty-one years old.

Justice CLIFFORD was born in New Hampshire, August 18, 1803, and is now in his seventy-third year. He studied law, removed to Maine in 1827, was elected to the Legislature in 1830, and was appointed Attorney General of the State in 1834. He was a Representative in Congress from 1839 to 1843, and in 1846 was appointed Attorney General of the United States by President POLK. He was appointed Minister to Mexico after the close of the war with that country, and in 1858 was appointed to his present position by President BUCHANAN.

Justice SWAYNE was born in Virginia, December 27, 1804, and is seventy-two years of age. He first studied medicine, and then law, and was admitted to the bar in 1824. In the same year he removed to Ohio, and in 1829 was elected to the Legislature. In 1830 he was appointed United States Attorney for Ohio, and held the position nine years, residing at Columbus. In 1861 he was appointed by President LINCOLN to the position on the Supreme bench which he now holds.

Justice MILLER is a native of Kentucky, having been born in 1816. He took his degree as a doctor of medicine, but after practicing a few years turned his attention to law. Being in favor of emancipation, he was compelled to remove from Kentucky during the political agitation of 1850, and settled in Iowa, where he became a leader in the Republican party. He declined many nominations, and filled no office until he was elevated to the supreme bench by Mr. LINCOLN.

Justice DAVIS was born in Maryland, in 1815, graduated at Kenyon College, studied law in Massachusetts, and in 1835 removed to Illinois, settled in Bloomington, and was admitted to practice there. In 1844 he was elected to the State Legislature, and in 1847 to the convention which framed the present State Constitution. In 1848 he was elected a circuit judge of the State, and filled the position by re-election until called to his present post. He was the intimate friend of Mr. LINCOLN, rode the circuit with him for many years, and was a delegate at large to the Chicago Convention of 1860. His name was presented to the Cincinnati Convention of 1872, and again to the St. Louis Covention of 1876, as a candidate for the Presidency, and he seems to be ambitious to secure that high office. It is stated that he did not vote for either Mr. GREELEY or Mr. TILDEN, and it is also affirmed that he voted for HAYES.

Justice FIELD was born in Connecticut, in 1816. He studied law with his brother, DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, in New York, and practiced with him for some time. In 1849 he went to California, and was the first alcalde of the city of Marysville. In the same year he was elected to the State Legislature, and took a leading part in molding the judiciary system. In 1857 he was elected a judge of the Supreme Court of the State, and was elevated to the position of chief justice. He is a brother of CYRUS W. FIELD, the distinguished projector of the Atlantic telegraph.

Justice STRONG was born in Connecticut in 1808, and educated at Yale. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia, in 1832. He practiced for a time in Reading, and was elected to the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Congresses. In 1857 he was elected a judge of the Supreme Court of this State for fifteen years, but resigned in 1868 and resumed his practice. Two years after he was called to the place he now occupies.

Justice BRADLEY is a native of New York, graduated at Rutgers College in 1836, and came to the bar in 1839. He practiced at Newark until appointed to the Supreme bench of the United States. He was formerly a Whig, but became a moderate Republican, and zealously supported the war for the suppression of the rebellion. He was born in 1813.

Justice HUNT was born in Utica, New York, in 1810, and has always resided there. He graduated at Union College, in 1828, and followed the legal profession until 1865, when he was elected a judge of the State Court of Appeals, which position he resigned to take his seat upon the Supreme bench of the United States.

THE Hospital for the Insane at Danville, in this State, which was estimated to cost something like $300,000, at its inception, has already cost over a million; and now it asks for $125,000 more to enlarge the wing for females. There seems to be no end to the cost of such buildings.

The State is just beginning a new hospital for the insane at Warren, and another is asked for at or near Philadelphia. Both of these are needed; but it will be wise for the State to learn, beforehand, what each of them is going to cost when finished. The usual plan is to estimate a low figure, to begin with; then appropriate $100,000 for the first year, and keep on at that or a greater rate for an indefinite number of years; but it is time this plan was abandoned. There is no soundness in this policy of piecemeal appropriations. Appropriate the full sum at once which the building is estimated to cost, and then hold the trustees who are to spend the money to the task of finishing the building with the sum they have asked for.

All public buildings are suck-holes for the public money solely because of these piecemeal appropriations. The Legislature which authorizes one to be built knows all about the probable cost, but appropriates only a tithe of it; the next Legislature comes up, knowing nothing about it, and is told that the work has just been begun, and if another appropriation is not promptly made, all the money so far expended will be lost. It then appropriates another tithe of the estimated cost; and so the thing goes on until the original estimated cost is all eaten up and the building is only half finished, and hundreds of thousands go to its final completion, in driblets given year by year, by Legislatures which have lost sight altogether of the beginning of the concern. This Danville hospital, for instance, was begun in 1869—eight years ago, and is not yet finished; and there is scarcely a man in either branch of the Legislature who remembers its origin or its history. The present Legislature, consequently, is asked to save, by a large additional appropriation, what has already been squandered upon it.

THE men of brains, in both parties, are opposed to the gambling method of settling the Presidential question; while the main support it gets comes from the business men, who look only to the prospect of getting out of the present complication in the shortest way. General JOHN A. DIX says in a letter to Congressman KASSON:

I can see only one safe way out of the existing perplexity, and that is to have the President of the Senate to discharge without interference the duty enjoined on him. The requirements of the Constitution are to be sacredly observed, no matter how party aspirations or interests may be affected. All legislative devices, schemes and plans, however unexceptionable their purpose, which derogate from the constitutional power of the President of the Senate, are unwarrantable and perilous to the perpetuity of the Government. It would be as great a wrong and as dangerous an invasion of the Constitution for the two Houses of Congress to disregard or set aside any of the requirements by compromise, as it would be for either by separate action to set them at defiance.

The veteran THURLOW WEED says:

The question ought to be determined by the Constitution and laws. Either Governor Hayes or Governor Tilden had received a majority of the electoral votes. With this fixed fact, there was nothing left for compromise. The question was a more vital one than any which had arisen since the founding of the Government, and anxious as he was for the election of Governor Hayes, he would prefer an adverse result reached under the Constitution to the settlement of a Presidential election by Congressional compromise.

ROGER A. PRYOR, a very able lawyer, justly observes that the question could not as properly be submitted to the Czar of Russia as to this commission. As this is not, and never has been, a party question, the opposition to an unconstitutional settlement of a constitutional question, is likely to include the most prominent men in both parties. They regard a sad political precedent as being something like a blunder in diplomacy, which is worse than a crime.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The French Canadians bulldoze the English at elections.

There's a strong movement in currants in New York, and they are running swiftly to London.

Tennessee has 800,000 bushels of peanuts. She should make them over to her defrauded creditors.

It is an odd but significant illustration of the hard times that even the toy market is much depressed.

The success of Schlienann has set the jersey lunatics digging after Captain Kidd's treasure again.

It is so cold down in New Hampshire that they have to pry the sun up every morning with a crowbar.

Frost has destroyed so many cabbage plants in Connecticut that tobacco is expected to go up to very high rates.

Waiting on death. An old colored man in Georgia was the other day found standing stiff and stark by a table in a kitchen, dead.

California has been flooded with rain, and can now be congratulated on having got rid of that drought which was withering her crops.

Brooklyn is importing English skylarks and chaffinches, with a view of letting the former loose in Greenwood and the latter in Prospect Park.

Terribly suggestive. More than half the deaths in New York city last year were in tenement houses, though not a tenth portion of the populace live in them.

Protestantism is gaining on Mohammedanism in Palestine. There are now 250 Protestant churches in the Holy Land and 7,600 children in Protestant schools.

One of the jurors in the case of the Brooklyn Theater fire inquest has expressed a desire to hear further testimony, and the Coroner will probably reopen the case.

Maine shows pretty strong on Indians yet. The Passamaquoddy tribe is 508 weak, and the Penobscot 488; total, 996. This is the best aboriginal show in New England.

Several theaters in New York and other cities have closed, although half the season is scarcely over. Hard times affect the stage as well as the counting house of the merchant.

The prospect of an Eastern war is affecting our immigration. A number of Russian Jews have already arrived, who assert that hundreds would follow if they could cross the border.

Somebody has invented a machine for driving animals by electricity. A child, by this means, can drive and curb the most fractious beast. It should be tried on the Democratic leaders.

Dr. Forbes Winslow has printed in London a book styled "Spiritualistic Madness," which finds that epidemic delusions, almost precisely similar to modern spiritualism, have been known in all ages.

Congress ought to be a very wise body, if possession of books suffices to make men wise—which often it doesn't. There were added to the Congressional Library, last year, 17,390 books and 9,000 pamphlets.

During the present winter thick ice has formed at Shreveport, Louisiana, and eleven inches of snow fell, while Red river was gorged with ice. No such weather was experienced in Louisiana before.

A divorce case occurred in New York last week in which the husband was more than eighty and the wife more than seventy. If they had waited patiently for a few years they would have been divorced without application to the courts.

In the restoration of old churches and the building of new ones English churchmen have spent an average of nearly $4,000,000 per annum for the last forty years, and many poor curates have during that time lived on the verge of starvation.

Irene House, the husband-shootist, has been declared incurably insane and guardians appointed. She is possessed with the morbid fancy that her mission in this world is to form a union between the Roman Catholics and Jews, and scarcely any other idea finds lodgment in her mind.

"The Wine-bibbers' Temperance Society" is the title of a forthcoming book dedicated "to unpledged temperance men, to moderate drinkers, to hotel keepers, saloon-keepers and bar tenders, as well as to the faithful who have signed the pledge, in hope that it may contain a suggestion."

Bessie Turner, who hung pictures at midnight with Tilton, and who was carried to his bed, as the Afrite carried the Princess of China in the Arabian Nights, is negotiating for an appearance on the dramatic stage, which is like a punch-bowl of art mixed up with strangely assorted ingredients.

Specimens of the small snakes which fell in Memphis during the recent storm have been forwarded to Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, for examination. Now give us a shower of such materials as dried beef, pickles, or condensed milk. This is the way to earn the gratitude of the public.

Every State ought to investigate the sanitary benefits and disadvantages which all portions of its territory present. Michigan is actively engaged in this good work. Meteorological observations have been made in twelve different points in the State for testing the pressure, humidity, rainfall, winds, clouds, ozone, casual phenomena, etc.

The improved penal system of Great Britain, Belgium and Switzerland has greatly reduced the number of convicts here. This result is brought about by correctional treatment and not by new punishments or any sort of terror except he terror of certainty and celerity in the detection and conviction of the evil-doer. The same system, the American Prison Association confidently hope, will bring the same ends here.

PERSONAL.

Dom Pedro and his wife have left Alexandria for Sicily, where they will spend time enough to enable the Emperor to go down into Ætna and look after the lost diary of Empedocles. They will then go to Rome.

Secretary Cameron, it is stated, is about to marry a widowed daughter of Judge Jeremiah S. Black. She is forty years old, and her first husband, Mr. Shunk, was the son of a former Governor of this State.

A book is announced that is said to have been written by a lady who is a granddaughter of John Randolph of Roanoke—an announcement that will amuse those who know what old Roanoke Randolph really was—or what he was not would better describe him, and that he never was married; and that he was she man of whom, and to whom, Tristam Burges was speaking when he said that moral monsters could not propagate.

There is a person employed to write about art in the *Atlantic Monthly*, who beautifully says of one of William Hunt's recently exhibited pictures: "There was much that gave pleasure, as the two large studies of sylvan penetralia, with their concociation of swarthy boles and impleached stretches of green overhead, filtering the sunlight into tender tints, or that other infinitude of an immense, involuted pond pitchforked in a bewitched atmosphere and seeming about to roll down upon and smother the quiet green landscape in the foreground." Ah!

A young bank clerk at Toronto, named Barber, gets $20,000 a year for five years. This is how. It was found that he had been taking the securities of the bank (of which he was custodian) and using them himself as collaterals to obtain loans on for stock speculations, or to lend to other people for a consideration. A public trial would have exposed a great number of his accomplices, men of high position, so he elected to be tried summarily, pleaded guilty and was sent to the penitentiary for five years. The men of high position paid him $100,000 to take this course.

Who can for a single moment doubt his origin after this? Dr. Hermes, of Berlin, has been presented with a young gorilla. This fact is not extraordinary. Other gorillas have visited Europe, but no gorilla like this gorilla has ever looked into the face of man and tried to pronounce the word "brother." This gorilla is "the missing link." After sleep he stretches himself like a man and yawns. The other day he was sick with chills and fever, and as he lay on his couch he looked so imploringly at Dr. Hermes that the good man at once gave his poor relative a strong dose of quinine, which cured him. At his next visit the gorilla recognized his benefactor, nodded to him in a familiar and friendly way, and then went up to him and deliberately and in the tenderest fashion squeezed his hand. Did any one ever express gratitude more delicately? The gorilla, cured by quinine, squeezed the Doctor's hand. If that is not a proof of the humanity of the gorilla, or monkey-ship of man, or something else, then logic is lame.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

Election of United States Senator—Personnel of the Minnesota Legislature—Ignatius Donnelly—Ex-Governor Wilkinson—The Democratic Hunt for an Ineligible Elector—Carpet-Baggers—Relief for the Grasshopper Sufferers—Intensely Cold Weather.

special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial:

ST. PAUL, MINN., January 16, 1877.

As predicted in one of my former letters, Hon. William Windom was to-day elected as his own successor to the United States Senate by the two branches of the Legislature of Minnesota, which election will be ratified to-morrow by the two Houses in joint convention, and thus is rewarded one of the most honest and faithful men that ever occupied a seat in the highest branch of our national legislature.

As the hour of election drew nigh, I, amongst many others, wended my way toward the capitol, and first took a view of the members of the House from the gallery, and my judgment is that in point of physique, as well as ability, it will compare with that of any in the country; and, looking at the manly and decorous manner in which their proceedings were conducted, I could but think of the contrast between this body of legislators which is the immediate representative of the people of a State which gave Hayes 24,000 majority, and the mob which assembled in Harrisburg during the last two winters.

Next took a view of the Senate from the gallery of that chamber, and there likewise I was particularly struck with the muscularity of its members, and I concluded, from their robust appearance, that the grasshoppers could not have destroyed all the subsistence in the State. Apparently the low, fed man is Donnelly—the indestructible Ignatius—who, with his rotund corporation of about five feet six inches in height and about twice that in rotundity, and his full, florid face, looks as if he could keep a number of cooks employed. For a native of Pennsylvania, he is the best specimen of a son of Erin that I have seen in the West, as he looks as if he might have been born with a shillelah in his hand. In fiery eloquence, gestures, movements, appearance, instability, nose and jolly good nature, he is Irish to the backbone.

Wilkinson, or "Our Mort," as they call him here, looks as if he had been grasshoppered. He is ex-United States Senator, and, lean, cadaverous, bony looking specimen of the *genus homo*, and in almost every particular the opposite of Donnelly. He was elected to the United States Senate by the Republicans, and remained a member of the Republican party until they refused to re-elect him, when he joined the Democrats, and has since done their dirty work for them, and as a reward they gave him the empty honor of the Democratic caucus nomination for United States Senator. The best looking man of this body is Lieutenant Governor Wakefield, who is about as fine a specimen of mankind as there is to be found.

The election of a United States Senator occupied about one hour, the most of the time being consumed in the speeches. Every one in his nature, Donnelly was opposed to everybody else. He made a speech, and told the Senate that he saw danger in the distance; that within the next month he feared we would hear the clash of arms and the tread of contending armies, and to avert so dire a calamity he would vote for Hon. William L. Banning. Well, Donnelly was satisfied, the Senate was satisfied and the spectators were satisfied, and the danger to the country is now past. Like Satan, who travels 'round seeking whom he may devour, the Democratic managers are out through the country seeking for weak places in the electoral college, and in their search they thought they found one of the electors from this State ineligible, and a committee of inquiry was at once asked for, but, as it deserved, it was kicked out of doors. It will be hard for the bulldozers to cheat the State of Minnesota, with its 24,000 majority, out of its voice in the electoral college. How wonderfully anxious these Tildenites are to reform the country by cheating the people out of their choice!

Perhaps they may justify their effort to cheat the State on the grounds that it is ruled by carpet-baggers. This charge is true in every particular, since either in its executive State offices or in either branch of the Legislature you look in vain for one born on the soil of Minnesota; and one of the members of the lower House, a son of ex-Governor Magoffin, of Kentucky, has been here not quite three years, and asked for office at the hands of the Democrats, of course, before he had deposited his carpet-bag. Sitting Bull, seeing the success of the war against carpet-baggers in the Southern States, concluded to try his hand in bulldozing the West, and he is considerably puzzled to know why he should have an army marching against him, and not against the Southern bulldozers, when his work manifested much less ferocity than that of the Democrats in the South.

Governor Pillsbury has been distributing clothing and provisions among the destitute in the grasshopper regions. He says the distress is very great, and the question of the maintenance of those people is a very grave one, since at least one-tenth of the population of the State will require help for this winter, and then it is almost certain that the distraction will be as great if not greater during the coming season.

The session of the Legislature, as far as I say is concerned, will expire by virtue of the Constitution in sixty days from the day it convened, and the members serve for five dollars per day, making three hundred dollars a session, and after that they serve without pay; and yet I believe they have a better class of men than where they are better paid. The present Legislature is evidently composed of the best business men of the State, who come here for recreation during the winter months.

An act of the Legislature, passed last session, levies a tax on the liquor sellers for the purpose of building and maintaining an inebriate asylum, aside of all other licenses and taxes, and to this a very strong opposition has developed itself during the past summer, and a strong effort is now being made for its repeal, which I hope may be done. If a State, for pay, allows one portion of a community to make another portion drunk and fit them for asylums, then I think, in all reason and justice, the State ought to provide for those unfortunates who are thus degraded by a system out of which the State collects a revenue.

The weather has been intensely cold here this winter, but the snow scarcely exceeds six inches in depth. Neither the Lake Superior nor North Pacific trains have been detained an hour this winter. The mercury was fifty-three degrees below zero at Pembina yesterday, and we had expected the wave to strike us here last night, but before reaching here a warmer wave from the South met it, and we were spared the danger hanging over bare noses and ears. It is singular that at Fort Garry, eighty miles further north than Pembina, the mercury has ranged from eight to ten degrees higher all winter than at the latter place.

Amongst the Western people there is a great deal of reliance on Pennsylvania and her noble Governor, in case the Democrats carry out their threat of wah. Next to the President, the name of Hartranft is mentioned more than than of any other. The question is, will they get up a war, and if they do, how many will hike in Clearfield county, and how many will go to Canada?

A. P. H.

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8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation, and in case of fraud, submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.

9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge*, a commission being paid by the publishers.

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11. For a great variety of advertising, or business enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.

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With the return of the season, I would most respectfully ask you to call and examine my large stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents

In Engravings the line has never been excelled, and in Photographs, Chromos, Water Colors and Lithographs, I have a full and complete stock.

In the Department of Frames, to which special attention has always been given, will be found a large and varied assortment which, for superiority of manufacture and artistic design, cannot be excelled.

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FLOWERS A SPECIALTY.

Also, Gold Fish, Canary Birds, Hartford Fern, Pampas Plumes, Ornamental Grasses, Ground Pine Wreathing, Immortelles, Bird Cages, Autumn Leaves, Canary and Mocking Bird Feed, Aquariums and Fish Globes, Fern Cases, Winter Blooming Plants, Sea Shells, &c., &c.

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TTH

ESTATE OF JEFFERSON D. STEWART, DECEASED.—Letters of administration upon the estate of Jefferson D. Stewart, Jr., late of the city of Pittsburgh, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same will present them to A. J. HILL, Administrator, at the office of James Hill & Co., corner Marion avenue and P., Ft. W. & C. R. R., Allegheny City.

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Send for circular

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1877.

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AT WILLIAM SEMPL

We take great pleasure in calling attention to our

Dress Goods Department,

as we are now opening further Novelties, making it exceedingly attractive, while very best value is offered.

Knickerbocker Suitings, all shades, at 10 and 12½c.
Fine line New Dress Goods at 12½c.
New colors shades in Plain Goods at 18¾c.
New Matalasse Brocades at 25 and 31c.
New Cashmere, Satteen and fine Brocades at 25c.

Beautiful assortment New Dress Goods in all the most desirable Dress Materials, all qualities of textures, and all the newest and latest shades, at

OUR USUAL LOWEST PRICES!

SPECIAL ANN

As per announcement in our last ca ing November and December, we have an examination of them, ranging in p

Black Goods Department!

To this Department we invite particular attention, as we are now receiving a new and complete line of goods, which we cheerfully offer as being an exceptional good value.

Extra good value in Black Alpacas at 22 and 25c.

Very superior Black Alpacas from 30 to 75c, of fine lustre, shades and quality.

Also, a new and choice line of

Silk Warp Black Cashmeres

at extremely low prices.

At 81, 81 12½, 81 15, 81 20 and 81 25. Black Dress Silks which, one week ago, were 81 25, 81 40, 81 60, 81 70 and 81 75.

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We have advices of a Second Shipme WONDAY NEXT, off-rings other and m

1877 1877

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THE

Pittsburgh Commercial

FOR 1877.

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The PITTSBURGH DAILY COMMERCIAL, from and after the 1st of January, 1877, will be mailed to subscribers, in the United States, at EIGHT DOLLARS per annum, postage prepaid. The paper, which has heretofore so freely found its way to the business office of the Banker, the Merchant and the Manufacturer, and has so firmly maintained its character as a medium for the dissemination of reliable information concerning Financial and Commercial affairs, will commend itself more largely to all classes of traders, now that the price has been so materially reduced. It is not only the purpose of the management to keep the Business Departments of the COMMERCIAL fully up to the standard of past years, but to improve them, from time to time, by introducing such new features as the necessities of trade and a proper regard for the interests of the patrons may require.

IN POLITICS

The COMMERCIAL will endeavor to pursue the same course which has characterized it in past years, and will support Republican principles, always exercising the right to freely criticise party measures which do not meet its approval, and to condemn the acts of party friends when those acts do not comport with its sense of right and justice. It will remain faithful to the great national constitution upon which the Republican party was based, and will espouse the cause of no clique or faction. The grave questions which now agitate the country, and which must in due time reach a proper solution, will be discussed fearlessly, will be full of interest to the general reader, and will be calmly and dispassionately, but firmly, discussed, in all their bearings.

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Will be fully up to the demands of the reading public. In addition to the comprehensive and accurate reports of the Associated Press, giving the news from all parts of the world, arrangements have been made for Special Telegraphic and Mail Correspondence from the National and State Capitals, and from other important centers.

In the department devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a complete daily record of events in the city and its vicinity, prepared by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.

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Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full telegraphic reports of the State of Business, with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade Centers of this country and Europe. The Pittsburgh Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and accurately. As a commercial journal the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.

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SATURDAY,

New Goods Daily

E'S, 165, 167 AND 1

With pleasure we respectfully announce the offering of another line of

Ladies' Cloaks and Sacques;

at still lower prices than those lately offered, and which have given so general and universal satisfaction, and of which we have sold so many.

At 81 50,

Ladies' Good Heavy Beaver Cloth Sacques.

At 82 and 82 5 ,

Extra Heavy Wool Beaver Sacques, worth 84

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 22, 1877.

The office of the Equitable Life Insurance Company to have its condition examined by a committee of nine prominent business men in New York has met with some pretty sharp criticism from several quarters. The best founded of these criticisms is that no one but an expert is capable of giving an intelligent judgment on the liabilities and on a portion of the assets of any life insurance company. About eighty five per cent. of these liabilities is the reinsurance reserve or net cost value of outstanding policies, which unprofessional gentlemen can no more investigate than, as the *Financial Chronicle* tersely puts it, "they can calculate eclipses." About some of the minor items in the assets the same difficulty exists, that the investigation of their real condition is a wholly technical work, for which any one not specially trained is incompetent.

It is in regard to the real estate and mortgage assets of life insurance companies that a voluntary examination like that proposed by the Equitable is of value; and the fact that the shrinkage of real estate was almost the only cause for the prevailing distrust of life insurance companies, frees the proposition from the imputation of being a white-washing scheme. The merchants and bankers whom it is proposed should make this examination are perfectly competent to judge of the value of the real estate investments made by the life insurance companies, and their judgment will be of considerable value. But an examination of the insurance reports will show that this item of real estate assets is not so essential to the protection of the policy holders, as was generally imagined. It appears, on investigation, that the surplus of all but four of the life insurance companies of New York exceeds their real estate assets. In other words, in eleven of the fifteen companies the value of their real estate and mortgage securities can be wholly extinguished without entrenching upon the reinsurance reserve. In the four cases excepted the extinction of the real estate must be almost total before the surplus is gone. Now, no one has any idea that the value of real estate assets can ever be totally extinguished; so that it will be seen that the decline in real estate is not a matter of such vital importance to life insurance policy holders as was imagined. A rotten life insurance company like the Security may break up and be exposed to the public, just as a rotten bank like the Nation Trust Company, may do the same thing; but neither event should be allowed to disturb public confidence in the stability of honest ly and intelligently managed banking or life insurance companies.

—In the table of railway securities of this vicinity, as revised by Eastern reports printed in this column yesterday, Allegheny Valley Railroad income sevens were quoted at 45¾ bid and 46 asked. We are assured that the proper quotation for Saturday should have been 46½ bid and 50 asked.

—The following extract from the report of the Comptroller of the Currency sets forth the whole question of bank taxation in a very clear and impartial manner:

The Government is receiving a revenue from the banks which is more than equal to all taxes paid by them before the war, while the States are also increasing the burdens which previously were as great as could be borne. Within the past two years seventy-one banks, and since the organization of the system two hundred and seven banks, have gone into voluntary liquidation, chiefly on account of excessive taxation, while during the last year fewer banks have been organized than in any previous year since 1863; and unless some favorable legislation is obtained, a very considerable number of banks will retire from the system to engage in private banking. In previous reports the Comptroller has called the attention of Congress to the fact that the amount of tax to which the national banks are subject (the average rate, including States and national, being about three and one-half per centum on the amount) is much greater than that imposed on any other capital in the country. The reason for this will be apparent when it is remembered that the data for the assessment and taxation of national banks can always be obtained from their published statements, while the amount of the capital of other corporations, private firms and individuals cannot be as accurately determined. The tax on bank deposits was essentially a war tax, and such impositions having been long since removed from every other similar interest, the Comptroller is fully of the opinion that justice to all parties requires its removal from this one also. The recommendation for the repeal of the provision imposing a tax upon bank deposits, and also of the one requiring the affixing of a two cent stamp upon bank checks, is renewed, if, in the judgment of Congress, a sufficient amount of revenue for the support of the Government can be more equitably derived from other sources.

—Commenting on the recent decision of the New York Court of Appeals in the criminal proceedings instituted against Duncan, Sherman & Co., by one of their unfortunate creditors, the New York *Economist* says:

It will be remarked that on the 27th of July, 1875, the banking firm of Duncan, Sherman & Co., still enjoying an unimpaired credit with the general public, startled the city by suspending, of course this action causing widespread loss and embarrassment among not only depositors but persons who had drawn the firm's bills of exchange, and those who were holding their letter of credit, were in foreign countries at the time. One of the creditors was W. A. Roebling, who, having bought on July 21st a sight draft on the Union Bank of London, which was dishonored, was not satisfied with civil proceedings, but proposed the arrest of Mr. Duncan, based upon that provision of the criminal code authorizing such an order "when the defendant has been guilty of a fraud in contracting the debt or incurring the obligation for which the action was brought." The case thus made was taken to the Court of Appeals to procure the vacating of the order, and that tribunal has now unanimously rendered a decision which is worth especially noting. Judge Earl delivering it, cites the wealth, style of living and reputation of the defendant firm, and proceeds to say that when they publicly failed they were probably less than forty per cent. of their cash obligations; that by their own admission they were aware of their condition and were seeking help from friends to whom they sold the draft in question; that "they must have known that they were utterly and hopelessly insolvent and they would soon have to go into bankruptcy or make an assignment;" that "they were doing business based on a net indebtedness of $5,000,000 due to a set of duped and confiding creditors, yet they continued their business, holding out to their customers the most delusive appearance of solvency and inviting the same confidence;" and that "after they were in this condition they could not honestly continue their business and receive the money of their customers." The court admits the obscene of any particular intent to deceive and defraud the plaintiff, but holds that they must be considered as intending the fraud which was the inevitable consequence of their continuing to receive money, and hence the order of arrest is affirmed.

—The receipts, by express, of coin and bullion at San Francisco for the last quarter of 1876 were $16,871 200, and for that of 1875 $11 9.8 700. The sources of these receipts were the interior, the North coast route, the South coast route and Mexico. The receipts for the entire year were $35,-742,700 of dore silver, forty per cent. of which on the average is gold, $9 955,330 of gold bars, and $21,581,500 of coin. The remittances from San Francisco to the interior were $26,524,000 for the year, and the shipments East, overland, $35,586,300.

—Two national banks have been organized during the past week, the First National Bank of Franklinville, New York, William E. Weld, President, and Jason D. Chase, Cashier, and the Madison County National Bank of Anderson, Indiana, John E. Corwin, President, and John H. Ternbaum, Cashier.

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	....	....	48¼
Reading	....	....	12¾
1st mtl Cos. of N. J	140¾	....	....
Pgh. Titusville & Buffalo	8¾	....	....
Lehigh Valley	....	....	49¾
Allegheny Valley 7.30's	105	....	....
Central Transportation	39	....	....
P., C. & St. L. 7's	86	....	....

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 106¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 22.—Money easy at4@5 per cent.; most loans at 5. Prime mercantile paper 5@6 per cent. Customs receipts $410 000. The Assistant Treasury disbursed $368,000. Clearings $14,000,000. Sterling steady at 482½@485¼.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 106¼ and closed at 106¾. Carrying rates 4@5 per cent. Silver at London 58 3 16 pence per ounce; here bar silver is 134¾ per ounce in greenbacks and $1 23¾@128 in gold; silver coin $1 20¾.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm and in good demand. Railroad bonds generally firm. State securities quiet. This has been one of the most exciting days at the Stock Exchange for many weeks, although the fever was confined principally to one stock, to wit, Western Union. The price opened at 76¾, reached 77, receded ¾ per cent. and then suddenly jumped in less than an hour to 78¾, with large transactions on the part of one broker having a large order to buy. The amount of this order is variously reported at25,000 to 40,000 shares. Following the lead of Western Union, Michigan Central moved from 49¾ to 50¾. St. Paul preferred from 48¾ to 49¾, Lake Shore from 56¾ to 57¾ and Union Pacific from 68 to 68¾. New York Central and Rock Island were firm, while the coal road shares were weak and lower. In the last hour prices were irregular but in the main declined until near the close when the market became strong. Transactions 215 000 shares, of which 80,000 were Western Union Telegraph, 2,000 Northwestern, 5,000 Rock Island, 10 000 St. Paul, 7,000 Erie, 50,000 Lake Shore, 2,000 New York Central, 2 000 Canton of Mississippi, 30 000 Michigan Central, 7,600 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and 5,000 New Jersey Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel...	77¾	C., C., C. & I.....	37
Quicksilver.....	14¾	Rock Island.....	102¾
Do. preferred....	30	St. Paul.....	48¾
Mariposa.....	6¾	Do. preferred....	48¾
Do. preferred....	9¾	Toledo & Wabash.	6¾
Pacific Mail.....	24¾	Ft. Wayne.....	104¾
Adams Express....	102¾	Terre Haute.....	6¾
Wells-Fargo Ex...	84	Do. preferred....	14¾
American Ex.....	87	Chicago & Alton.	90¼
United States Ex..	54¾	Do. preferred....	110
New York Central.	104¾	Ohio & Mississippi.	7
Hudson River.....	104¾	Del. & Lack.....	74¾
Do. preferred....	117¾	Atlantic & P. Tel..	16¾
Harlem.....	134	Missouri Pacific..	10¾
Do. preferred....	136	Atlantic & P. pref.	2
Michigan Central.	49¾	Indiana Central...	9¾
Canadian.....	122	Bur & Quincy....	118¾
Lake Shore.....	57	Hannibal & St. Jo.	12¾
Illinois Central....	88	Union Pac. stock..	54
Cleve. and Pitts...	92	Central Pac. bds..	103¾
Northwestern.....	36¾	Union Pac. bds....	103¾
Do. preferred....	87	Do. sin'l grants..	104¾
N. J. Central.....	83¾	Pitts. & F. bonds..	90

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881.	114¾	New 5's.....	112¾
5-20's, 1865.....	106¾	10-40's.....	105¾
5-20's, 1865, new....	110¾	10-40's, registered.	113
5-20's, 1867.....	112¾	10-40's, coupons...	113¾
5-20's, 1868.....	117	Currency 6's.....	123¾

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old....	43¾	Virginia, old.....	39
Tennessee, new....	43¾	Missouri 6's.....	100¼
Virginia, new.....	39		

LONDON, January 22, 5 P. M.—The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to-day is £100,-000. Consols 95 3 16. United States bonds —5-20's, 1865, 105¼; do 1867, 109¾; 10 40's, 103¾; new 5's, 107¼. Railroad securities —New York Central 99; Erie 10; preferred 22.

PARIS, January 22.—Rentes 107 francs 19 centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 22. United States bonds—New 5's 102¾.

NEW ORLEANS, January 22.—Gold 107@107¼. Sight exchange on New York ¾ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 515.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, January 22, 1877.

We have had a remarkably fine day to-day, and in apparent or real sympathy with the weather, we have had a very good business done in most departments of trade to-day. Our streets are in a much better condition than during the latter part of last week, and the country roads are better also. Business we can report good, but there are none but the slightest changes in prices to note.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls.....	1,970	Butter, pkgs.....	61
Wheat, bush.....	88	Bacon, pcs.....	314
Barley, bush.....	1,500	Hams, pcs.....	146
Oats, bush.....	2,310	Hay, bales.....	130
Corn, bush.....	4,000	Apples, bbls.....	2
Rye, bush.....	112	Potatoes, bbls.....	40
Cheese, lbs.....	21		

The quotations given in the following reports are paying prices in a wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The grain market of to-day cannot be said to have materially changed from the condition it was in on Saturday. Wheat was reported a little easier, but the quotations were not changed. No. 1 white Ohio was offered at $2 bid and $2 20 asked; No. 2 do at $2 18@2 20 ₩ gallon; No. 1 red at $2 18@2 20 ₩ gallon; No. 2 do at $2 16@2 18 ₩ gallon; No. 3 do at $2 14@2 16 ₩ gallon; rejected at $2 12@2 14 ₩ gallon; wagon lots at $2 20@2 25 ₩ gallon. Corn is still in excess of light receipts, nothing being done in the market, and the prices unchanged. We quote: Ear 53@55c ₩ bushel; prime shelled 51@55c. Oats—Prime to choice nominal, and are held at 29@40c ₩ bushel for prime to white; mixed 37@39c. Rye dull at 78@75c ₩ bushel. Barley also dull, and quoted at 85c for choice; 75@80c for good to prime spring; $1 00 for prime fall; for low grades 60c.

FLOUR—The market continues strong and active. We are without changes in prices, except in that of white wheat flour, which is quoted by some dealers as high as $5 00 per barrel. We quote No. 1 white wheat flour at $5 50 @5 75 ₩ bbl; No. 1 amber do $5 00@5 25; prime wheat flour $4 50@5 00; Wisconsin $4 75@5 75; Minnesota $4 75@5 00; fancy St. Louis $4 25@5 75; patents $5 25@6 25; Graham flour $4 75@5 25; cornmeal 70c ₩ bushel; oatmeal $6 75@7 00 ₩ barrel; kegs $3 75@4 00; rye flour $4 75@5 00 ₩ barrel.

MILL FEED—The market continues quiet and unchanged. We quote: Bran $14@15 00 ₩ ton at wholesale; $16 00@17 00 in a jobbing way; middlings $25 00@26 00; seconds and shipstuffs $16 00@18 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

HAY—The market to-day stood about as it was described on Saturday, being firm. We have no quotable changes to note. We quote: Wagon $ 2 00@14 00 ₩ ton; No. 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $11 00@12 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $ 10 00@13 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

Country Produce.

The country produce market to-day was rather dull, in the view of some dealers very dull. But Monday is something of a dull day in this department of the general markets at all times. There were no changes or particular interest reported.

APPLES—Good cooking and eating apples are in pretty supply, and the demand slow. We quote prime at $1 50@2 00 ₩ barrel; lower grades $1 00@1 50.

APPLE BUTTER—Market quiet with sales at 40c ₩ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 28@31c ₩ ₺.

BUTTER—Are in fair demand at $1 85@2 15 for prime white navy. Lima beans, per bushel $2 50 for prime.

BROOM CORN—Prices unchanged. Choice hurl 6@7c, as to quality; brush (as will work up 5@6 inch medium green) 4@4½c; crooked and light; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at 1@1½c per cent. off the prices given, as to quality.

HORSE—Dull and quoted at 2½@3½c ₩ ₺.

SEEDS—Timothy—Market quiet with sales at 40c ₩ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 28@31c ₩ ₺.

CHEESE

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 23, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 22, 1877.

Time	Bar.	Ther.	Hum	Wind. Dir.	Wind. Miles per hour	Weather
7 A. M.	29.30	26	78	W.	2	Cloudy
2 P. M.	29.272	33	61	W.	6	Clear.
9 P. M.	29.356	29	67	W.	3	Cloudy

Mean barometer...30.321 Highest thermom... 35
Mean thermom.... 29.7 Lowest thermom.... 23

WAR DEPARTMENT, SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY, PITTSBURGH, January 22, 1877, 10:48 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 36; wind N.; cloudy.
Cincinnati—Ther. 31; wind N. W.; cloudy.
Davenport, Ia.—Ther. 1; wind W.; clear.
Denver, Col.—Ther. 33; wind S.; clear.
Indianapolis—Ther. 23; wind N. W.; cloudy.
Keokuk, Iowa—Ther. 4; wind N. W.; clear.
Leavenworth, Kan.—Ther. 12; wind N.; clear.
Louisville—Ther. 31; wind N. W.; cloudy.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 31; wind N.; lt. snow.
Nashville—Ther. 37; wind N.; cloudy.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 4; wind S. W.; clear.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 28; wind N. W.; cloudy
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 33; wind S. E.; clear.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 15; wind S.; clear.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 57; clear.
San Francisco, Cal.—Ther. 52; wind N.; fair.
Santa Fe, N. M.—Ther. 23; wind S. E.; cloudy.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 44; wind N.; cloudy.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 23; wind N. E.; fair.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 57; wind N.; lt. rain.
Fort Gibson—Ther. 31; wind N.; cloudy.

*Below zero.

Obscene Literature.

George Hall appeared before Alderman Kreuzer yesterday and made an information charging Henry Burns with selling obscene literature, in the shape of a paper called the *Sporting Gazette*. The accused was arrested and required to give bail in the sum of $1,000 for a hearing to-morrow.

Allegheny Mayoralty.

The Democrats of Allegheny city held a convention last evening in the Common Council chamber to nominate a candidate for Mayor. The candidates for nomination were Messrs. J. S. Miller, J. P. Shondale and John Swan. Mr. Swan was nominated on the second ballot.

Our Fallen Sisters.

The ladies who were appointed to consider the question of "how to help and rescue their fallen sisters" in this city, decided at once that no new organization was necessary. The means now employed to this end are deemed ample, if they are only made available. It has been deemed advisable to hold a woman's daily prayer meeting, at three o'clock in the afternoon, in the Methodist Episcopal church, corner of Smithfield street and Seventh avenue, to which professing Christian women, and the erring, are invited. After these meetings, any one desiring to leave a life of sin, will be taken in charge and kindly cared for.

Dr. Banning's Lectures.

In another column will be found the announcement of a course of lectures by the well known Dr. Banning, beginning on Monday, the 29th inst., at Library Hall. The lectures will be given on the evenings of the 29th, 30th and 31st, and on the afternoons of the 30th and 31st of January and the 1st and 2d of February. The Doctor has lectured in various cities, from New York to New Orleans, and is spoken of in the highest terms by the press and the public. He has recently met with marked success in the Oil region, and wherever he has appeared he has drawn large audiences and given the highest satisfaction.

Inquests Yesterday.

The Coroner held an inquest yesterday on the body of John Everett, who lived about two miles above West Newton, in Westmoreland county, and was run over and killed by a freight train, between 12 and 1 o'clock Sunday morning, near the Connellsville depot. The testimony was that he and a companion arrived too late on Saturday night for the train for West Newton, and that they started to walk along the road, both being drunk; that the companion left Everett on the road near the place where he was killed, and proceeded on his journey. It is supposed the deceased lay down on the track and was killed, being in a stupefied condition. A verdict of accidental death was rendered. The deceased was forty-six years of age and leaves a wife and six children.

An inquest was also held on Thomas Good, the young man who dropped suddenly on Saturday, in Lloyd, Son & Co.'s mill, and expired shortly after. The verdict of death from heart disease was rendered. The deceased was seventeen years of age and lived on Brewery street.

LOCAL OPTION.

An Interview with Mr. Murphy.

Rev. George K. Ormond, S. C. Jennings and S. H. Nesbit, representing the State and County Executive Committees on Local Option, had an interview, yesterday afternoon, with Mr. Murphy in regard to their respective works. They expressed the greatest sympathy with him in the reformatory movement in which he has been enabled to achieve such wonderful success; and he equal sympathy with them in their work. But whatever his sympathy, he must not be expected to turn aside from his chosen line of labor to push local option, or to publish newspapers, or to do anything else. Those things he has left to others. While he should go forward in seeking to reform and save men, let Local Optionists also strive with equal earnestness to do their work. They should certainly meet with no opposition from him, but should always have his sympathy. These views, frankly expressed, were pleasing to the Local Optionists, who had called upon Mr. Murphy; and renewing their mutual expressions of good will, the interview ended.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

Of the twenty-six deaths in Allegheny last week, four were from smallpox.

The father of Judge Stowe is lying dangerously ill at his residence in Beaver county.

Mrs. Bell, who resides on Montgomery avenue, Allegheny, lost a seal skin muff at Library Hall Sunday evening.

A little son of Mr. Bryce Ray fell down at his residence, No. 44 Boyle street, Allegheny, yesterday, and broke his collar bone.

Three tramps named Wm. Barlow, Joseph Kahn and John Emory were sent to the Workhouse for sixty days, by Mayor Phillips, yesterday.

A meeting of business men and bankers will be held at the Chamber of Commerce to-day at 3:30 P. M., to take action toward a reduction of tax on banks.

Annie Sheldon, who was arrested on the South Side for street-walking Sunday night, was sent to the Workhouse for sixty days by Deputy Mayor Hoerr.

The fire plug near Speer's Plow Works, corner of Fifth street and Duquesne way, is frozen up, and a fire in that locality would no doubt result disastrously.

Lassar, the German who damaged Mrs. Dierstein's head with a lamp, was yesterday, after a hearing before Mayor Phillips, committed for trial on a charge of aggravated assault and battery.

The front door of Wm. Dunseath's jewelry store, No. 122 Fifth avenue, was found open about twelve o'clock last night by Officer McFarland. It is not known if anything was stolen.

A well known citizen has presented Francis Murphy, with a beautiful gold medal. One side has a copy of the "Murphy Pledge," and a *fac simile* of the great reformer's signature.

Mr. Edwin Adams, the favorite actor, is lying at the point of death in San Francisco. His only present aspiration is said to be to get to his cottage at Long Branch in time to die there.

John Fyers, the colored ash hauler, of Allegheny, who fired a pistol at Officer McIntyre, was committed to jail yesterday for trial on a charge of felonious assault, in default of bail in $1,000.

City Solicitor Rodgers, of Allegheny, is preparing an opinion on the legality of the proposed issue of bonds for the Charles street and McClure avenue improvements, which will probably be sent to Controller Brown to-day.

The Senate committee of investigation into election affairs in Louisiana took breakfast at the Union Depot Hotel yesterday on their way to the Capital. The Senators had two colored gentlemen with them. One of these was the Creole Casinavo.

Gottlieb Miller, of the Allegheny police force, has in his possession a red merino scarf, a striped silk handkerchief and a book entitled "Dream Life," supposed to have been stolen, which the owner can have by calling at the office of Mayor Phillips.

Edward Sweeney, who was beaten and stabbed last Thursday night, while returning home from a fair at St. Andrew's Church, has entered information against two men named Hughes and Maginnis, charging them with felonious assault and battery, and warrants have been issued for the arrest of the accused. The assault was committed in Allegheny.

Sunday evening the dwelling of Mr. Louis W. House, in West Liberty borough, caught fire—from a defective flue, as is supposed—and burned down. The citizens were aroused at the alarm, and through their efforts nearly all the furniture, household goods, &c., were saved. The house was a two-and-a-half frame building, the loss on which will amount to about $1,000; insured in the Merchants and Manufacturers company for $600.

It is stated that the hotel keeper at Jacksonville, Fla., with whom Mr. V. E. Beamer spent the last five or six weeks of his life, has sent a bill to a gentleman of this city for board, medical attendance, etc., for the deceased, footing up between six and seven hundred dollars. The item of drugs is put down at the modest sum of seventy dollars, and other things in equally preposterous and outrageous proportion. Pittsburghers who visit Jacksonville for health or recreation should give that hotel a wide berth.

Interesting Questions.

The Electoral Compromise Count.

Judge Stowe and the Late Grand Jury.

Action of the Chamber of Commerce ---Uniform Wire Guage---Iron Men Criticized---Public Meeting to Consider the Question of the Bank Tax.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon. There were present Messrs. Beymer, Meyran, Siebeneck, McCreary, Carpenter, Gregg, Swearingen, Stockdale, Dravo, Kelly, Secretary, and Howe, President.

UNIFORM WIRE GAUGE—PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Mr. Weeks, from the special committee to prepare facts in regard to freight discrimination for use of the Bureau of Statistics, reported that he had forwarded some notes on the subject.

The same gentlemen presented the memorial to Congress on the question of uniform wire gauge, as heretofore before the Board. The paper has already been published. The Iron & Sharp wire gauge is recommended.

Mr. Dravo moved that Mr. Weeks be a committee to confer with the Iron and the Tack Associations and ask their concurrence in the matter.

Mr. McCreary said as no iron men give the matter any consideration or make any showing of interest in it, he would not vote for any further movement. He was willing to do anything for the iron interest in or out of Congress, but as they don't take any interest here, he was in favor of dropping it.

Mr. Beymer coincided with Mr. McCreary.

Mr. Weeks said that as he was Secretary of both the Iron and Tack Associations, it might be they looked upon him as their representative.

After some little further discussion, Mr. Dravo's motion was agreed to.

Mr. Murphy, Superintendent, from the Committee on Legislation as to safety in public buildings, reported progress.

The Secretary read communications from Representatives at Harrisburg and Washington, acknowledging reports of action of Board in matter of Trans Allegheny canal and of the ceding of land for improvements on the Ohio river.

JUDGE STOWE AND THE GRAND JURY.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the Foreman of the Grand Jury, before whom the matter of safety of public buildings had been brought by this Board, was present and desired to be heard in consequence of the manner in which the jury had been treated by the Court.

Mr. Marthens was then introduced. He said he was, unfortunately, a member of the late Grand Jury. On the communication of the Board with reference to public safety in buildings, that body felt it their duty to take prompt action in the interest of the people. They had accordingly communicated with the Court and had asked the privilege of sending for the officers of the law, the County Fire Marshal and the City Inspector of Buildings. After a delay of one week the Court, Judge Stowe, gave them to understand that they had nothing to do with anything except as might come from the Court. No corporation (and this Chamber had been mentioned), they were told, should have any more influence with them than a town meeting. We thought, said Mr. Marthens, that there was a want of

RESPECT TO THE GRAND JURY

and their powers. We thought there were powers in it exclusive of the court, but courtesy demanded that we communicate with it. On making our final presentment Judge Stowe saw fit to give us a slap that we thought undeserved and unnecessary. We believed that the powers of the Grand Jury antidated the court by hundreds of years. It came with the first settlement of this country by the English and its powers were recognized and acknowledged in the Constitution. The Grand Jury have certain duties and have power to inquire into matters of public good with a view of bringing them to the attention of the court by presentment or indictment. Presentment without indictment is a right guaranteed by the Constitution, and we, said Mr. Marthens, think it a right irrespective of Judge Stowes court or any other court.

[Mr. Marthens read an extract from years ago in London in the case of the Earl of Shaftsbury. The testimony in this case was given in open court and despite the King and all his power an *ignoramus* was rendered amid the shouts of the populace. This right of the grand jury, we in a small way, have been endeavoring to uphold. And now, on behalf of the Grand Jury, and with the knowledge and approval of a number of members present, said the speaker, to the Chamber at whose suggestion we were acting for public good and ask their indorsement. We ask for protection of the people against the power of the court. The speaker, with others of the jury, thought they were badly treated. He thought the chamber should take some action in standing them. While the Grand Jury does not pretend to interpret the written law they act upon the broad common law. With these remarks the speaker would leave the matter with the Board.

Mr. Marthens then withdrew.

THANKS TO THE GRAND JURY.

Mr. Meyran thought this was not a subject for the Chamber to act upon. Although well meant, it may have been a mistake to send the memorial to the jury, but at all events they would not question the position of the court.

Mr. Dravo would not question the correctness of the court's action, but he thought the prompt action of the jury should be recognized.

He therefore offered the following:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Board are due, and are hereby tendered to the late Grand Jury for their prompt action upon the subject of safety of public buildings as brought to their attention by this Chamber.

Mr. Meyran moved to postpone action in the matter until next meeting.

Mr. Dravo thought there could be nothing improper in thanking the jury for the attention they paid to the suggesting of the Chamber.

Mr. Swearingen seconded the resolution, and disclaimed any intention of criticizing the action of the court.

Mr. McCreary said he would never refuse a vote of thanks to any individual or body who tried to do good for humanity. Of the particular matter now under consideration he, however, knew nothing.

The resolution was then adopted.

THE ELECTORAL COUNT.

At this moment Messrs. Malcolm Hay and George Shiras, Jr., entered the room, and Mr. McCreary arose to offer a paper, which he said, had been written by a prominent Republican. He read it, as follows:

WHEREAS, A joint committee of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, have reported a measure looking to a satisfactory adjustment of the electoral count for President of the United States; therefore,

This chamber representing the business interests of the city of Pittsburgh, would most respectfully urge upon Congress the immediate adoption of said report to the end, that all undue excitement in the public mind may be removed and the business of the country be relieved from disturbing influence growing out of the unsettled state of the public mind upon the vexed Presidential count.

A TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH.

Mr. Geo. Shiras being called upon said that he with Mr. Malcolm Hay attended, having in their possession a dispatch signed by a number of prominent men asking our Representative in Congress to vote for this measure and they were looking for more signers before telegraphing. As he understood the exigency there was a disagreement among men on a constitutional question. Mr. Shiras then made a statement of the situation of affairs in Washington as the counting of the electoral vote and said it was to be hoped that a prompt settlement might be arrived at. He thought there should be a strong presence in the result of the work of the joint committee so unanimously arrived at.

Mr. Hay next addressed the Board briefly and read the following form of a dispatch which it was proposed to send at once, and to which a number of signatures had been obtained:

To A. G. Cochran, Washington: The undersigned, belonging to both parties, concur in desiring the passage of the bill reported by the joint committee and believe its prompt passage will meet with the approval of the country. Signed: George Shiras, Jr., Malcolm Hay, W. S. Purviance, S. H. Geyer, R. Pitcairn, Samuel McClurkan, President Fort Pitt Bank; D. Lee Wilson, John D. Scully, W. E. Schmertz, President Third National Bank.

The resolution was adopted, and then most of the members of the Board present added their signatures to the above. It was ordered that the resolution be telegraphed.

THE BANK TAX—MEETING TO-DAY.

Mr. Meyran called attention to the matter of the bank tax upon which it had heretofore been suggested action should be taken. He said members of the Bank Association had suggested that a public meeting be held to give expression upon the subject. He offered the following:

Resolved, That a public meeting of business men, merchants, bankers and others be called for Tuesday, January 23d, at 3½ P. M., to give expression to a movement inaugurated all over the States for the repeal of the excessive taxation on banking capital, both under the State and General Government.

Mr. W. N. Riddle, from the Clearing House Association, explained the object, and the resolution was adopted.

Adjourned.

It must be good, for everybody recommends it, and the Doctors prescribe it. We mean Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. Price 25 cents.

THE LIBERTY STREET MURDER.

The Coroner's Investigation — Charley Kean, the Prisoner, Admits that He Did the Shooting—The Coroner Lodges a Commitment for Murder.

At two o'clock yesterday afternoon an inquest was commenced at the Coroner's office in the case of William McEwen, who was shot dead on Sunday morning at a saloon on Liberty street.

The first witness called was Dr. J. C Wishart, who had made a *post mortem* examination, and testified to the course the ball had taken. The deceased had been shot in the back of the neck and the ball had followed the spinal column down into the body. This wound had undoubtedly caused death.

Richard Bond, a policeman, was the next witness. He testified as follows: At 12:20 o'clock Sunday morning was going along Liberty street; when I was near the Green Tree Tavern heard a fuss; Charley Kean and another man were in a fight, and I arrested them both; Charley escaped from me and ran into the saloon, locking the door behind him; I held on to the other man; he told me to get his hat, which was in the saloon, as was a policeman he insisted on me getting it; he said he would go with me when I got his hat; I knocked at the door and told Charley to give me his hat; Charley asked, "Who is there?" I answered, "A police officer," he said "Go to h—l you s—s of b—s, or I'll kill you;" heard him leave the door and go up stairs, swearing he would shoot the s—s of b—s; the prisoner then pulled away from me; I heard the second story front open, and looked up; saw Charley fire; saw another man looking over Charley's shoulder and telling him to "give him h—l;" the man back of Charley had blood on his shirt; I was starting back when the third shot was fired, and McEwen, who was walking past me, dropped; I said "Charley, stop that shooting, you've killed a man;" looked at McEwen and found he was dead; called for assistance and Lieutenant McChesney came; he told me to get more officers and arrest Charley; got Officer Lemon and I went to the back door, heard Charley swearing and swearing that he would kill the thieves; we then went to the front; McChesney had by that time broken the door open; some boys told me that Charley was killing McChesney up stairs; they were scuffling together, and Charley was lying on his back; we then dragged Charley down the stairs to the street; I went back and arrested Samuel Omstead; he was in the same room with Charley and a woman, who said she was Omstead's wife; we then arrested all the inmates of the house.

John Thompson, of 1540 Penn street, testified that he was at Kean's house at the time of the shooting. He was walking with his deceased up Liberty street, and hearing the noise inside the Green Tree House they stopped. Presently McEwen went inside, but in a few moments came out. After the demand had been made for the hat, witness heard the window raise and then he ran into a doorway. After he supposed the shooting was all over, witness began to look for McEwen, and in walking across the street he stumbled over his body. This witness saw Kean at the window just before the firing. A railroader was standing across the street and yelled for Tilden. Kean swore at him and then shot at him. He must have fired six or eight shots. Witness would look up after each shot and saw Kean with the revolver in his hand.

Some other unimportant testimony was taken, when a verdict was retuned to the effect that the deceased came to his death from a pistol shot fired by Charles Kean.

John D. McChesney, a Lieutenant of the Police, was next sworn. It was 12:20 A. M. when he heard a shot at the corner; he next heard raps of a mace, and some boy told him he was wanted, and that Charley Kean had killed a man; had then gone to the "Green Tree" and found the door locked; rapped, and Kean said if he wanted to see him to come on Monday; after this, Kean and the woman he lived with quarrelled in the house, and Kean swore he would shoot somebody; meanwhile the body of deceased was on the sidewalk; witness then burst in the door, and Kean met him, but swore that he would not be taken; after a scuffle witness was reinforced by Officer Lemon, and Kean was overpowered and taken to the station house. Witness stated that Kean was in liquor and excited at the time and in fact was always that way; Kean admitted to witness having fired the shots but didn't know he had killed any body. The reputation of the house was a bad one, and the woman Clara Thaler, had lived with Kean since her husband's confinement in Dixmont. Kean said to witness that he had had a quarrel with deceased on Friday.

Officer Bond was recalled, and stated that Olmstead was searched at the lock-up, but nothing was found but a small Barlow knife.

Samuel Olmstead sworn—Board at No. 50 Penn street; work at bridge building; am working now at Point bridge; was in the house on Liberty street when the shooting occurred; when Charley commenced shooting I went to the window and tried to take the pistol from him Kean was the only man that did any shooting that night. I suppose he fired five or six shots.

Mary Olmsted sworn—Am staying on Liberty street, when the shooting occurred; my name is Rose Keeling; heard the shots; went up stairs and found Charley Kean and another man scuffling; soon after the police came in and arrested Charley; saw McEwen in the house that night; he and Charley had some words, but don't know whether they were in earnest or not; the shooting was done from the window of my room. I am called Mrs. Olmstead, but I am not a married woman.

Clara Theiler sworn—Reside at 497 Liberty street; the house has been run in my name since my husband was sent to Dixmont, about a year ago. Did not know anything about the shooting; saw the police take Charley Kean away, but did not know what had happened. Kean had a right bar for me; has been with me over a year. He was crazy with whisky on the night of the trouble.

Officer Lemon testified that he assisted to arrest Charley Kean on Sunday morning. At twenty minutes past twelve heard raps of a mace at the corner of Pennavenue and Thirteenth street; came up and found Bond rapping; he said a man had been shot on Liberty street; we went back together and were sent by Lieutenant McChesney to the rear of the house to prevent the escape; heard Charley Kean say, "The s—s of b—s are coming in the back way; I will shoot the first man that comes in;" Bond then started away to call more assistance.

Lieutenant James McCandless was sworn and testified that he arrived at the scene of the shooting about one o'clock Sunday morning; the door was then open, and Kean and the other inmates had been arrested. I instituted a search of the house, and in a table drawer I found a revolver. [Pistol exhibited—a small ivory-mounted five shooter.]

Clara Thaler was recalled and identified the weapon as her property; it had never been used; it was a present to her; witness; there was a loaded revolver under the pillow of the bed in which witness slept, but it was a Smith & Wesson seven-shooter.

Rose Keeling was recalled and said there was always a seven-shooter under the pillow in Clara's bed; she had not seen the pistol since the shooting.

Harry Whaley, a switch tender on Liberty street, saw Kean at the window shooting; there was another man at the window with him who had a red shirt on; Kean fired several shots, first up street and then down; the man with the red shirt on said to the crowd: "You s—s b—s can't meet me on Twenty-eighth street to-morrow." He appeared to be trying to stop the shooting.

Wm. Doyle, a boy, testified that he saw the shooting; first saw Officer Bond and a man at the door; Bond was asking Charley Kean to open the door and let him have a hat belonging to the man that was with him. Soon after the shooting commenced. Officer Bond ran away when the first shot was fired.

This closed the testimony, and the jury, after a brief deliberation, found that McEwen came to his death by a pistol wound, and that the fatal shot was fired by Charles Kean. The Coroner lodged a commitment against the prisoner on charge of murder. Olmstead, who had been in the custody of an officer until the conclusion of the inquest, was discharged.

THE MURDERER.

Charles Kean, who is in jail on the charge of committing the murder, and who admitted to Lieutenant McChesney that he did the shooting from the window, says he is thirty years of age, and was born in West Bromich, Staffordshire, England, came to this country seven years ago, and has a brother, John Kean, residing in Bloomfield, Sixteenth ward. For three years prior to May, 1875, he worked in the American Iron Works of Jones & Laughlin, on Jane Lewis. He was a laborer at the Danks furnaces, and was under Mr. Lewis' management until transferred to another department of the mill. In May, 1875, he went to Mrs. Theiler's house to attend bar and has since remained there. While at work in the mill he never touched liquor, but after going to Mrs. Thieler's house he took a life of dissipation and for the past three weeks has been on an uninterrupted spree.

MR. MURPHY'S SALARY.

Something About the Expenses of the Temperance Work.

Many persons have wondered what is done with the money subscribed for and collected at the meetings, in the temperance interest. Others again are curious as to who are paid for services, and especially as to the amount paid Mr. Francis Murphy. Chancellor Wood has seen fit to answer numerous pointed questions touching these matters and the information made public is briefly as follows: Mr. Murphy was engaged for seven lectures at $25 each, or $175 for seven nights. His success was so great that the Temperance Union concluded to continue him indefinitely at $125 per week. The other expenses attending the movement are considerable, not less than $5,000 having been used in the nine weeks during which the work has progressed. The gas and fuel are to pay for, a business manager must be paid and Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, who provide the excellent music, are compensated weekly. There are many others on the pay roll, but as much as $60 per week has been paid the Young Men's Home for boarding unfortunates.

Mr. Murphy says he has asked that the original amount be hereafter paid him, viz., $175, as he is in need to pay debts and keep his family. The committee have the matter under advisement.

BOLD BURGLARY.

A Dwelling at Superior Station Entered and Robbed—The Burglars Caught and the Stolen Goods Recovered.

About half past one o'clock yesterday morning a bold burglary was perpetrated at Superior Station, Ninth ward, Allegheny, whereby the residence of Mr. Alexander Matchett was despoiled of clothing and silverware of considerable value. The burglars effected an entrance to the dwelling from the wash house in the rear, and ransacked every room in the house. In the dining room they gathered up all the silverware, including spoons, napkin rings and other articles, and in the hallway two overcoats, belonging to Mr. Matchett and his brother in-law, Mr. Dodd, were seized by the rapacious rascals. Having finished up their work on the first floor, they ascended to the second story, when one of them entered Mr. Matchett's bed chamber. Here the fellow first took Mr. M.'s pants, which he put on, and then began a search for other valuable articles. While in the act of taking a watch from under Mrs. Matchett's pillow the lady was aroused from her slumbers, and, seeing a man standing at her bedside, asked, "Who is there?" Receiving no reply, and seeing the man retreating toward the door, she repeated her question and then set up a cry of murder. At this the fellow turned and made a step toward the bed, whereupon Mrs. M. again shouted murder, which had the effect of arousing her husband and the other inmates of the house. The thief then beat a hasty retreat to the hallway in the second story, where he turned off the gas in order that he might find his way to the stairs. He made a misstep, however, and fell headlong down the stairway. He sprang to his feet and, with a companion who had been in the lower hallway, made his escape through a rear door.

Messrs. Matchett and Dodd, as soon as they could dress, started out in pursuit of the thieves, proceeding as far as the Manchester car stables, where they met a policeman and notified him of the robbery. Officer Geary soon after came that way and also joined in the search. Two houses that had been under suspicion of containing stolen goods were searched, but nothing was found that could be identified. The searchers then started through Strawberry lane, where they met two strangers and arrested them on suspicion. Messrs. Matchett and Dodd were not long in arriving at the conclusion that they had the right men, for each of the gentlemen identified his overcoat, the prisoners having snugly ensconced themselves in those comfortable garments. All the other stolen articles were found secreted under the coats and in the pockets.

The thieves confessed their guilt, and were marched off to the lock-up. On being asked if they had thrown anything away, one of them said, "No; what in the h—l is the use of throwing a thing away after you have taken the trouble to steal it?" When interrogated as to their names and residence they said they were called Frederick Reynolds and George Nicholson, and that they lived in Pittsburgh. Subsequently they stated that they were from Youngstown, Ohio. They are both young men, probably from twenty to twenty-three years of age. The accused were yesterday committed in default of bail for trial on the charge of burglary.

The room of Mr. Miller, in Mr. Matchett's house, was also visited by the thieves, who took two or three dollars from the pockets of that gentleman.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge Ketchum.

F. H. Braggins, bankrupt, Mercer county. Register's supplemental report distributing fund confirmed.

Joseph Houston, bankrupt, Westmoreland county. Register Marchand directed to ascertain and liquidate liens.

Wharton Bros., bankrupts, Pittsburgh. Republication ordered for hearing on petitions for discharge.

Thomas Dingman, Erie. Report of Register adjusting liens confirmed *nisi*.

Henry C. Roberts, bankrupt, Erie. Final hearing on bankrupt's petition for discharge fixed for 19th prox, before Register Woodruff.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Sterrett and Collier.

Samuel S. Brown and John W. Schoonmaker, administrator of William H. Brown, deceased, vs. Isaac D. Hamilton, late of North Versailles township; an action to recover overpaid school tax. Verdict for plaintiffs in the sum of $213 65, subject to the opinion of court on a question of law reserved.

Sands & Reineman for use of H. C. Reineman vs. Rody Patterson; action on a book account. On trial. Mr. Sands kept a horse at the livery stable of the defendant, and claimed that its board was paid for with goods from the store of Sands & Reineman. Mr. Patterson purchased goods from Sands & Reineman, and refused to pay for them, claiming that they were received in consideration of the care of Mr. Sands' horse. Mr. Reineman claims that there was no such agreement understanding with the firm, and hence brings this suit to recover for the goods received by Mr. Patterson.

Jason Hogg, as trustee Sarah A. Richardson, administratrix of Hugh Richardson, deceased; action for partition. On trial.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judge White and Kirkpatrick.

In the case of James Cook vs. A. M. McClure and John McCleary, previously reported, the jury returned a verdict of $300 damages for the plaintiff.

The case of Peter Shoener vs. Adam Reinman, which was taken up on Saturday, is still on trial before Judge Kirkpatrick.

Samuel McKissock *et al.* for use vs. Samuel McKissock; motion for reasons for a new trial and in arrest of judgment on the part of plaintiff.

SUIT AGAINST THE ALLEGHENY TRUST CO.

John Wilson, William Wilson and Alex. Wilson, partners as John Wilson & Bros., vs. William A. Reed *et al.*, late partners in the Allegheny Trust Company. The plaintiffs claim that Wm. A. Reed, president and acting cashier of the bank, in order to obtain money to carry the company safely through the panic, secured the services of L. D. Harbaugh, an attorney, who, through Isaac M. Pennock, a broker, and one Rosenbaum, borrowed the $10,000 from the plaintiffs, it being distinctly understood that the money was to be borrowed for the bank, the agents having so represented to them, and one of the members of the firm having been so assured by Mr. Reed, the President of the company, which was an individual liability concern. It was suggested at the time that the loan would appear in the bank, appear in the transaction, its credit might perhaps be impaired, and accordingly a note was drawn by L. D. Harbaugh, at four months, to the order of Wm. A. Reed, President and cashier, by whom it was endorsed, and to this note was attached a certificate of stock, dated back in 1869, and representing that L. D. Harbaugh was a large stockholder in the institution, which was not the fact, he not having a dollar of stock in it. It is further claimed that Harbaugh received the money; that he paid it over to Charles Reed, one of the tellers of the bank, who was sent to his office for it by the bank; that most of the money was in the form of a check, and that the entire check was used at the Union National Bank, through which the company cleared, for the purpose of discharging the Trust Company's indebtedness; that on the maturity of the note of Harbaugh, the defendants were visited by another member of the company, who negotiated with them for an extension of the loan, and that the same was extended for one year. In 1875, the bank closed, and the note was not paid.

The plaintiff offered in evidence an affidavit of L. D. Harbaugh, that gentleman being at present in Michigan, in which he affirms what is stated above, and says that fifty shares of the capital stock of the company, $200 per share, were given him to secure him against loss. The certificate of stock was given him at the time he signed the note. Several other papers were produced, among which was an agreement between him and the company that Harbaugh was merely an accommodation maker. Another agreement stated that Harbaugh was to have no interest in the stock after the payment of the note.

The deposition of William A. Reed was also offered in evidence, but objected to as was the affidavit of Harbaugh. The counsel for the company objected because Reed himself ought to be produced. The Wilsons testified that a subpœna had been issued for Reed last week, but that they had been unable to find him, but at the same time they had received information that he was in Philadelphia. The deposition was admitted, and contained much the same statement of facts. The deponent, Mr. Reed, swears that other directors knew of the transaction, and that about nine thousand five hundred dollars were obtained from Wilson & Bros., which were placed in the bank to the credit of himself for the use of the bank.

Messrs. Pennock, Charles Reed and others were called by the plaintiff as witnesses.

The defendants claimed that Reed and Harbaugh are liable and not the bank.

The case is on trial before Judge White, with M. W. Acheson for plaintiffs and A. M. Brown for defendants.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Stowe.

The greater part of the day was spent in the trial of Daniel McGinniss, for perjury, on oath of Michael Kelley. The jury acquitted.

Legal Notes.

A petition was presented in the Common Pleas No. 1, asking for the appointment of a Commissioner to inquire into the alleged lunacy of Casper Negley. The document is signed by Alex. W. Negley, Felix H. Negley, Jacob S. Negley, Casper S. Negley and other children of the defendant. It is set forth in the petition that Mr. Negley is ninety-four years of age, is very feeble, and that on account of his advanced age, his intellectual facilities have become so impaired that he is not competent to manage his estate. When laboring under the effects of spells, which are of frequent occurrence, he does not know his own children, and even does not remember his own name. Some time ago he went to live with Daniel F. Negley, one of his sons, and the petitioners allege that his condition has since been such as to render it unsafe for the aged gentleman has been compelled to sign certain papers and documents which he afterward claims to know nothing of. At the time he went to live with his son, Daniel F., he had an estate worth from sixty to seventy thousand dollars, but the petitioners say they are not now able to tell what condition it is in. The Court appointed J. C. McCombs, Esq., commissioner to inquire into the mental condition of Mr. Negley.

In the Common Pleas No. 2, Charles V Krugh filed a bill in equity against Joseph Pfeifer and Adam Urich. All these parties were associated in business together, under the name of Joseph Pfeifer & Co., for the manufacture of a patent strainer, and the plaintiff alleges that the defendants have drawn from the business more than their share of the profits, and have not given him what he is entitled to. The defendants have charge of all the books of the firm, he says, and refuse to submit any account of the affairs of the concern to him Krugh wishes the partnership settled up, the defendants restrained from making any further collections of money due the firm, and a suitable person appointed to close up the business.

Messrs. Bayne & Magee commenced proceedings in ejectment in the Common Pleas No. 2, on behalf of James P. Fleming, against the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad Company, the Pennsylvania Company operating the same, and R. Fletcher, to recover possession of a piece of ground at Emsworth Station, Kilbuck township, on which the station house is built. A summon was issued.

In the matter of the reward for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of the Hammett family, the court granted a rule to show cause why the money in court should not be paid out according to the schedule reported by the referee.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

Numerous Meetings—Crowded Audiences Everywhere—Notes.

The Fifth avenue Methodist Protestant church was filled again last evening to its utmost capacity with a deeply interested audience. Many persons were greatly disappointed in consequence of the absence of Mr. Murphy, who was at Hulton conducting a meeting there, the fact of which was not previously announced.

Mr. S. T. Paisley presided over the meeting, and after several devotional exercises the following persons delivered short addresses, which were well received by the audience.

Joseph R. Hunter was satisfied to occupy the background, where he felt he could be of as much service. He deprecated all species of selfishness, some of which, he was sorry to say, was manifesting itself in the ranks of the Association. He hoped that harmony would prevail under all circumstances.

Mr. Miller said that he used to walk the streets drunk; had made all sorts of promises to his wife that he would quit drinking, but every time he broke his promise. He blessed God that he was now a saved man through the blood of Jesus. He attributed his salvation to the prayers of a faithful and devoted wife. He thought that if all people would sign the pledge they would find it to pay better than the best bank stock in the city.

Mr. James considered it a duty to say a few words in behalf of this great reform. He had signed the pledge a few weeks ago. He thought that Christ was the corner stone of this work, and therefore must succeed.

Mr. Hastings had signed the pledge and connected himself with the church.

Mr. Brawley thought that it was a merciful Providence that guided his footsteps to this city.

Mr. Shannon stated that the Association was in need of cast-off clothing, and desired all persons who had spare garments of any description to send them to the Fifth Avenue Methodist Protestant Church at any hour during the day, where a proper committee will receive them and make the necessary distribution.

Rev. J. B. Barnitz, or Wheeling, West Virginia, Mr. Perry, Mr. C. Miller, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Snowden and others made short addresses.

There will be a Murphy temperance meeting held in the St. James Episcopal church, Penn avenue, on Wednesday evening next.

The attendance was good at the North Avenue M. E. Church, Allegheny, last evening. The meeting was opened with the reading of the Scripture by Rev. S. M. Vernon, D.D. Speeches were made by Mr. Graves, of New York, Messrs. Israel, M. W. Claney, R. C. Craft and others. Quite a number signed the pledge, and Mr. Claney concluded his remarks with giving his name to the church.

THE OBERFLOW MEETING.

At the regular Murphy overflow meeting held in the Cumberland church, last night, there was a large and intelligent audience present, and a large number signed the pledge. Captain Ed. Timmony led the meeting. Rev. McDermot led in prayer. The following gentlemen addressed the meeting: Messrs. McNair, J. D. Jones, of Cleveland, Ohio, Frank X. Burns, J. B. Timmony, John Estlin, Dr. Reddick and Rev. McDermot. There will be a Murphy meeting held in this church to-night, and several good speakers have promised to be present and address the meeting. All are invited.

AT THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN.

We question whether in the whole series of meetings called for in view of the present temperance awakening, there has been held one at which the speaking was more entirely to the point and livelier and the general spirit warmer than at the Gospel temperance meeting last night at the Central Presbyterian Church, Smithfield street, Rev. F. M. Kirkpatrick, pastor. Rev. D. K. Nesbitt, of Hazlewood, gave a stirring address upon the evil and the remedy, whilst the latter was set forth with added illustrations of great beauty and power by Messrs. Orr and Robinson of the Y. M. C. A. To-night they are to have such speakers as Rev. Dr. Murray and Colonel Realf.

A WEEK'S WORK AT MANSFIELD.

A series of temperance meetings was last week commenced at Mansfield under the leadership of several gentlemen from this city prompted by the astonishing success that has attended the labors of Mr. Murphy and his fellow workers here. The first of these meetings was held on Monday night in the Presbyterian church and was conducted by Mr. J. K. Barbour. G. M. McMasters, Esq., led the second, in